

without any sense of purpose, without any sense of direction, and with grave jeopardy.

□ 1015

NO RUSH ON HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I know the new Homeland Security Department is going to pass with almost no dissenting votes, but it really is sad that we have to create a new cabinet level department just to get government agencies to cooperate with each other. Really it will just make the government bigger, more bureaucratic, more expensive and no safer.

Many syndicated columnists are now questioning the rush here. Dan Thomasson in the Scripps Howard News Service, in the Scripps Howard papers all over the country, said the last thing the Nation needs now is a half-baked Department of Homeland Security removed from the oven too quickly because of obvious political considerations. He said this is a monumental task that if not carefully and cautiously tended could produce an unwieldy, overblown bureaucracy that would worsen the situation and leave the country even more vulnerable than it is now.

I hope that we will heed these words of Dan Thomasson and not make the problem worse than it is now.

VOTE "NO" ON FAST TRACK

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, under enormous pressure from defrauded investors, the Republican leadership has finally and reluctantly agreed to bring a strong accounting bill to the floor today. Passage of this bill will make America's corporations more accountable and will restore confidence and investor faith in our markets. I urge my colleagues to support it.

But, Mr. Speaker, completion of the conference report on Fast Track this week also appears to be a strong possibility. Fast Track—the biggest gift of all to overpaid CEOs in providing more opportunity for corporate abuse. Fast Track has been made even worse since its passage in the other body. The Dayton-Craig amendment will be eliminated, TAA and health care benefits are not nearly enough and less than promised, and there is still no core labor and environmental standards.

Mr. Speaker, it would be highly ironic if on the day this House finally made corporations tow the line that Republicans then turn around and give corporate America the biggest prize of all. Vote "no" on the Fast Track conference report.

INTRODUCTION OF "INSTANT REPLAY" BUDGET LEGISLATION

(Mr. GEKAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, the Congress once again is facing the fiscal train wreck that seems to come about every October 1, the end of the fiscal year, when the Congress has not finished its appropriations cycle and we are left with a device, a tricky device, called the continuing resolution to continue doing business until a budget can be put into place.

Again, we are introducing here today a bill that could end this kind of crisis, this potential shutdown of government, once and for all. We have attempted it for 10, 12 years now. It passed once, but then President Clinton vetoed it. This bill calls for an instant replay that would occur on October 1 on those appropriations bills that have not been completed by the end of the fiscal year, September 30. The reason that it has not passed in my judgment and signed into law is because it makes good, common sense. In other words, after September 30, for the appropriations bills that are yet to be completed, instant replay comes into play. Last year's budget becomes automatic until the appropriators can come up with a new budget. I urge support.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON SARBANES-OXLEY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we will be enacting the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, a historic overhaul of financial services oversight. But I am saddened by the crisis that brought us here. Today my heart goes out to all the innocent workers who have lost their jobs and the investors whose pensions have been pillaged.

Out of this calamity we have produced the strongest legislative reaction to a business scandal since Franklin Roosevelt was President. It is a triumph over incredibly powerful special interest lobbying and includes world-changing reforms for U.S. companies. I have high confidence in our free market system. We have been through other market declines, insider training scandals in the eighties, and the S&L crisis. Our system is the best at generating economic growth, jobs, and rewards initiative and innovation.

The Sarbanes-Oxley bill is an important step toward restoring investor confidence and transparency in our system.

CONGRATULATING BARBARA BYRD BENNETT, CEO OF CLEVELAND SCHOOLS

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I stand this morning to congratulate the CEO of the Cleveland municipal school district. Her name is Barbara Byrd Bennett. Why am I up here? Because they attempted to take her away from the city of Cleveland after all the good work she has done over the past few years. I am proud to stand here on the floor of the House to celebrate the work that she has done, to look at the improved schools that we have, to know that as a result of her work we have got a new issue 14 that was passed, we will be building some 48 new schools in the city of Cleveland and renovating about 50.

We have not built a new school in Cleveland in 20 years. Our school system is doing better. Our students are doing better. I salute Barbara Byrd Bennett, our CEO, and thank her for staying in Cleveland and pledge my support as well.

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the misconduct at Enron was apparent as this House met not this morning, but at the beginning of the year. Yet, as in previous years, the House Republican leadership avoided doing anything meaningful about it. Finally today, we have overcome their continued obstructionism to take up the Sarbanes-LaFalce bill, the first genuine action to stop corporate wrongdoing. How tragic that so many investors and so many hard-working employees had to suffer while this leadership protected Kenny-boy and its other corporate pals.

And even as we gather today to take our first action, this same crowd that would yield on one reform after another is now trying to misuse the Homeland Security bill to offer new ways to protect corporations who wrong people in our communities across the country, and even to go so far as to authorize government contracts to be issued to politically powerful corporations who abandon their American citizenship and leave our country. We must prevent this misconduct from happening.

THE RISING FEDERAL DEBT

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that you left the floor, because I would like to remind you that on your watch, our Nation has now squandered a trillion dollars on interest on the national debt. That is a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times a thousand. Did not educate a kid, did not build a road, did